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Inventors: Lockwood et al.  
Appl. Ser. No.: 10/629,538  
Atty. Dkt.: 5777-00201

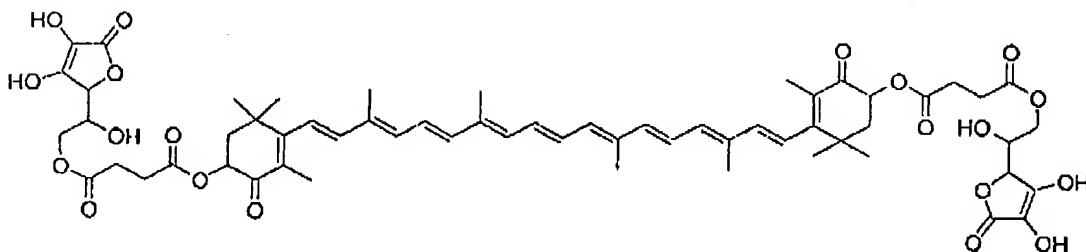
*In the Claims:*

Please amend the claims as follows.

The following lists all claims and their status:

1-1018 (canceled)

1019. (new) A chemical compound comprising a carotenoid derivative having the structure



1020. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is at least partially water soluble.
1021. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound is at least partially water soluble.
1022. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid.
1023. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is astaxanthin.

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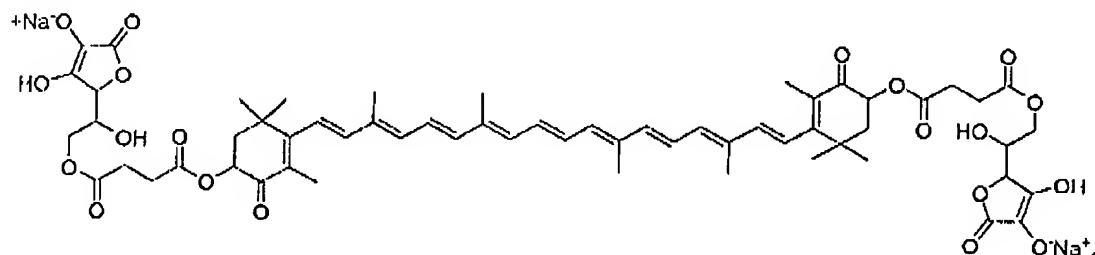
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1024. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is beta-carotene.
1025. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is lutein.
1026. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is zeaxanthin.
1027. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is canthaxanthin.
1028. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is at least partially water dispersible.
1029. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound is at least partially water dispersible.
1030. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is at least partially hydrophylic.
1031. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound is at least partially hydrophylic.
1032. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative comprises at least one co-antioxidant.

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1033. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound comprises at least one co-antioxidant.
1034. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound is part of a composition.
1035. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound is part of an aqueous solution.
1036. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound is part of an oily suspension.
1037. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the compound is optically active.
1038. (new) The compound of claim 1019, wherein the carotenoid derivative is optically active.
1039. (new) A chemical compound comprising a carotenoid derivative having the structure



1040. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is at least partially water soluble.

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1041. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound is at least partially water soluble.
1042. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid.
1043. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is astaxanthin.
1044. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is beta-carotene.
1045. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is lutein.
1046. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is zeaxanthin.
1047. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is a derivative of a naturally occurring carotenoid, and wherein the naturally occurring carotenoid is canthaxanthin.
1048. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is at least partially water dispersible.

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1049. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound is at least partially water dispersible.
1050. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is at least partially hydrophylic.
1051. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound is at least partially hydrophylic.
1052. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative comprises at least one co-antioxidant.
1053. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound comprises at least one co-antioxidant.
1054. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound is part of a composition.
1055. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound is part of an aqueous solution.
1056. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound is part of an oily suspension.
1057. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the compound is optically active.
1058. (new) The compound of claim 1039, wherein the carotenoid derivative is optically active.